

FIRE PROTECTION POLICY BOARD

**Work Session
January 24, 2007
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA**

Board Members Present: Sharon Colby, Mark Kahley, Wayne Wienholz, T.J. Nedrow, Jennifer Gregerson, Bud Hover and Rick Chaney

Board Members Absent: Dean Hosni and Jim Broman

WSP Staff Present: Mike Matlick and Ellen Tombleson

Guests Present: Lieutenant Dan Monaghan, Chief Brian VanCamp and Chief Bill Walkup

OPENING:

T.J. opened the meeting with introductions at approximately 9:07, and welcomed Rick Chaney, who has been appointed to serve as the representative of career firefighters through the remainder of the current term. Rick is a Captain with South King Fire & Rescue. His current assignment is in the training division as a Training Officer with a priority on the apprenticeship training and higher education advancement for fire service members. Rick started in the fire service as a Volunteer/Resident Firefighter/E.M.T. with the Federal Way Fire Department in 1979, and began his professional fire service career in 1980 with the Federal Way Fire Department.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved with the addition of discussion on SB 5315 (allowing property owners access to their property during a wildfire)

DISCUSSION:

Regional Contract Funding – SFM Mike Matlick reviewed the process which began in April and resulted in the fire service recommendations which were provided to the Fire Protection Policy Board prior to today's Work Session. The following elements of the recommendations were reviewed:

1. Coordination/Communication (primarily regarding training opportunities) ~ Mike advised that this issue is being addressed by the Fire Protection Policy Board's Training and Education Committee, who are working towards having an operational website by this fall.

2. Improved Communications ~ Mike clarified that this was primarily aimed at communication between regions, but could also include interaction with the Fire protection Policy Board at the Regional Contract Workshop, which is planned to be held in April. In discussion on this issue, Bud advised that he would like to see opportunities for communication from the regions to the Board, identifying their needs and what they would like to see in policy. Following discussion on allowing non-fire agencies to attend training provided through regional contract funding, and how that may relate to gifting of public funds, Mike advised that he would discuss this issue with agency's Assistant Attorney General.
3. Increase Funding – It was agreed that this would be omitted from the recommendations
4. Allow Regions to have the option of having one council and submit one contract application, with three separate budgets (Fire/Life Safety, Training and Fire Investigation). It was agreed that this would be included in the recommendations.
5. It was agreed that the flexibility to move money between Councils that was incorporated into the 2006-2007 Regional Funding period should be kept.
Note: The 2006-2007 Regional Funding Period required that each region allocate \$10,000 to each of the three Councils. The Region could then move up to \$5,000 between Councils by simply notifying the Office of the State Fire Marshal in writing. No permission was required.
6. It was agreed that the allowing Regions the option of moving all of the funding for one contract period to one Council to address a specific need should be included in the recommendations. In further discussion, it was agreed that this would require the Region to justify this action and may also require a multi-year spending plan so decision makers can see how FPPB goals for the three Councils would be met in the future. Mike advised that he will develop language addressing this issue for approval action to be taken at the February Regular Meeting.
7. The issue of developing a method to expend unspent dollars prior to July 1 was discussed. A methodology to accomplish this desire was not developed. It was agreed that further discussions with the focus group will be necessary to arrive at a mutually agreeable plan. It is likely that the process for this will not be ready for the 2007-2008 Contract Period.
8. Improving communications using expeditious and cost effective methods was discussed. Mike advised that Focus Group members wanted a way to share best practices. Several technology options were discussed to implement this recommendation. These included Web conferencing, Department of Emergency Management phone bridges, TVW broadcasts.
9. All participants agreed to the need for accountability. The Focus Group requested that whatever accountability format was used, that it not be overly burdensome on the Regions. One suggestion that was discussed to facilitate communications and expedite the accountability process was to have all the Regions meet

annually. This meeting would take place in April and would incorporate both the Contract Guidance for the coming Contract period as well as reporting by the Regions of their progress in completing their Goals and Objectives from the current Contract period.

10. The Regions need clear direction from the Fire Protection Policy Board as to the Goals the Fire Protection Policy Board wants accomplished through the Regional funding. It was agreed that the Performance Goals for the Region must be realistic, achievable and measurable. Some questions and ideas for goals include; are we building local capacity? Are the Regional dollars benefiting the entire Region? What performance measures should the Regions be using? Mike advised that he would forward the guidance from the last contract period for review and possible expansion.

REPORTS

State Fire Marshal's Office –Mike Matlick provided an overview of the Basic Firefighter Training program history, legislation, enrollment and reimbursement data.

In discussion on drawbacks of the Fire Training Academy (distance and time away from home/jobs for volunteers) Sharon provided an overview of the discussion held the previous day at the Fire Service Leadership Forum regarding this issue. Mike and Sharon both reviewed previous discussions on the fund balance and potential use of surplus funds in the 086 fund. Mike further advised that the \$3.5 million to pay for the sewer system will be paid from the 086 fund, based on the Governor's budget

Training and Education Training Committee –

Chief Brian Van Camp provided an overview of the proposed Fire Service Training and Education Resource website which is being designed with the goal of providing a statewide, coordinated training resource. Brian advised that it is anticipated that the website will be operational by mid-summer. Mike advised that if an FTE is not available to staff the website, they may consider contracting for website support. Mark Kahley suggested that as a part of the Website marketing strategy, that a letter be sent from the Fire Protection Policy Board to all fire service organizations, encouraging them to contribute their class/training event information to the website.

HazMat/CBRNE Teams

Lieutenant Dan Monaghan, Vancouver Fire Department, provided a presentation on the Regional Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive (CBRNE) Response System, on behalf of Chief Don Bivins. The Fire Protection Policy Board agreed they may consider action on this issue upon receiving additional information on the subject matter.

State Fire Defense Committee –

Chief Bill Walkup provided an update on the following activities of the State Fire Defense Committee:

Election of Officers – At the last State Fire Defense Committee meeting, the Committee voted to retain Chief Bill Walkup as Chair, and Chief Dave LaFave as Vice Chair.

Draft 2007 Business Plan – Chief Walkup provided additional information on the issue of all risk mobilization and related issues, the role of the Fire Protection Bureau in clarifying legislation and partnering with stakeholders to create new, or clean up existing funding mechanisms and working to improve ordering systems.

Mike Matlick provided an overview of the Disaster Response Account and how the funds can be accessed.

Fire Prevention Committee – Mike advised that the survey has been completed and gave an overview of the gap analysis. Mike advised that contact will be made with County Fire Marshals to survey them to a higher level of specificity.

2007 Meeting Schedule – The Fire Protection Policy Board's Proposed 2007 Meeting scheduled was reviewed. Following discussion, it was agreed that the schedule should be revised to reflect that the Board will go back to holding their meetings and work sessions on the 4th Wednesday of the month, on the standard rotation of meetings, work session and months off. Ellen will update the schedule and send it out to the Board for review. T.J. asked that Ellen forward the remainder of the 2007 Meeting Schedule to the Code Reviser, unless there are considerable conflicts identified by responses back from Board members.

Committee Officers –

Following discussion, the Board approved the following committee appointments by consensus:

State Fire Defense Committee

- ◆ Chief Bill Walkup – Chair
- ◆ Chief Dave LaFave – Vice Chair

Training and Review Committee

- ◆ Jack Hensley – Vice Chair
- ◆ Larry Mummy – Replacement for Chief Tom Taylor
- ◆ Jim Crawford – Representative of the Washington State Association of Fire Marshals

SB 5315 – Mark Kahley provided an overview of SB 5315, which amends RCW 7604, allowing land owners access to their property during a wildfire to perform fire prevention activities, and the possible consequences associated with this.

Next Meeting:

February 28, 2007 – 9:00
General Administration Building
Olympia, WA

Approved:

T.J. Nedrow, FPPB Chair

(Date)